

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions or listings of claims in the application.

1–20 (Canceled).

21. (Currently amended): A body heating/cooling apparatus, comprising:

a vest comprising a front panel and a back panel, said front panel and said back panel defining a cavity;

a flexible, continuous channel disposed in serpentine fashion throughout said cavity, said flexible, continuous channel having adjacent portions;

inlet means for infusing a fluid into said flexible, continuous channel;

outlet means for withdrawing a fluid from said flexible, continuous channel;

wherein said adjacent portions of said flexible, continuous channel ~~being~~ are connected by short placed in fluid communication by passageways extending between corresponding adjacent portions at locations intermediate the ends of said adjacent portions;

wherein said ~~short~~ passageways ~~being~~ are configured with respect to said corresponding adjacent portions such that substantially all of a

fluid flowing through said corresponding adjacent portions normally ~~substantially all~~ bypasses said ~~short~~ passageways; and wherein said ~~short~~ passageways ~~being~~ are configured with respect to said corresponding adjacent portions such that if one of said corresponding adjacent portions suffers a constriction, fluid will enter ~~said short passageway~~ a connected one of said passageways to flow from one corresponding adjacent portion to another so as to bypass said constriction.

22. (Currently amended): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said ~~short passageway being~~ passageways which are configured with respect to said adjacent portions such that substantially all of the fluid flowing through said corresponding adjacent portions normally ~~substantially all~~ bypasses said ~~short passageway~~ passageways comprises:

said ~~at least one short passageway~~ passageways intersecting said corresponding adjacent portions at substantially a right angle.

23. (Withdrawn): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said vest further comprises a fluid-absorbing material in thermal communication with said flexible, continuous channel.

24. (Withdrawn): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 23,

wherein said front and back panels comprise first and second retainer layers; and

wherein said fluid-absorbing material is disposed between said first and second retainer layers of said front and back panels.

25. (Withdrawn): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 24, wherein said fluid absorbing material comprises fluid absorbing particles.

26. (Withdrawn): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 24, wherein at least one of said first and second retainer layers comprises a substantially water-impermeable material.

27. (Withdrawn): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 26, wherein said substantially water-impermeable material is breathable.

28. (Withdrawn): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 24, wherein at least one of said first and second retainer layers has a substantially waterproof coating.

29. (Withdrawn): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 24, wherein at least one of said first and second retainer layers is a high-porosity material which permits the passage of liquids.

30. (Withdrawn): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 24, wherein at least one of said first and second retainer layers is a fluid-impervious material having a plurality of small punctures formed therein.

31. (Previously presented): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising:

a pump; and

fluid conduits for connecting said pump to said inlet means and said outlet means for placing said pump in fluid communication with said flexible, continuous channel.

32. (Currently amended): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 31, further comprising means in fluid communication with said pump for controlling the temperature of [[a]] said fluid being pumped through said flexible, continuous channel.